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[COMMUNICATED.]

TO THE MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA:—Entirely a stranger to you, for I am myself but a comparative stranger here, I take the liberty of addressing you in this public manner, for the sake of enlisting your own attention to, and stirring up your fellow-citizens to aid you in any movements that you make in furtherance of the matter called to your consideration.—It is known to you, as well as to everybody else, that, for the last year or two, many of the streets and cellars, back yards, alleys and gutters of this place, have been, generally, in a most shamefully filthy condition. In consequence of it, chiefly, medical men have not hesitated to say that a pestilence has been hovering over Alexandria; and, unless a change is effected this summer, an epidemic may be expected. Indeed, very much sickness, and a considerable mortality, have prevailed here for a long time; but no register of deaths being kept, as I am informed, the number of deceased persons cannot be ascertained. The civil authorities heretofore have been, I should think, derelict of their duty, in the most essential matters committed to their charge—that is, police duties, and the preservation of the public health. I, with others, shall, in all probability, be compelled to stay here this summer. My life, and the lives of thousands, may, under Providence, in a certain sense, be said to be committed to your hands. I, therefore, pray you to commence, at once, the work of cleansing this city of the piles of filth that can be collected in all parts of it, and in directing the draining of stagnant water, the removal of nuisances, the fumigation of cellars, and all such sanitary precautions. Your attention to these suggestions would, I am sure, secure you the thanks of the citizens generally. I am, respectfully, &c., M. N. B.

A recent report of the Confederate Secretary of War comments on the stringency of the blockade, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies for the army. He apprehends no difficulty in obtaining a sufficiency of arms, ammunition and meat. The harvests of the past season, he says, have not generally proved propitious, and, notwithstanding the much larger breadth of land devoted to the culture of cereals and forage, the product in many extensive districts is below the average.

The National Intelligencer says, "From what we can learn as to the disposition of Congress we are of the opinion that the policy of the President, proposing to aid any State in the work of emancipation, by appropriating money for the purpose of purchasing slaves, had but very few zealous friends in either House of Congress or in any party."

Actions have been commenced by the U. S. officers in Boston against several persons who have failed to take out licenses or to make their returns, under the Internal Revenue law, as required. They will be test suits.

New counterfeit threes on the Hudson River Bank have made their appearance. They are said to be a very good imitation.

RAID UPON FAIRFAX COURTHOUSE.

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, March 9.

Last night the Confederates, under Captain Mosely, came into this town, dressed in Union clothes took all the pickets and patrols prisoners, one hundred and ten fine horses, General Stoughton, of the Vermont Brigade, prisoner; hunted for Capt. L. E. O'Conner, of the New York 5th, Provost Marshal of the town, but could not find him; they also searched Colonel Johnston's house for him, but he made his escape in his night clothes.

The night was dark and rainy, but these guerillas dashed to and fro in a reckless manner, although their plans were well matured, as the different squads who went to the different headquarters would indicate.

They went to Gen. Wyndman's headquarters; found him absent in Washington; but they took his Aids, searched his trunks and took his papers.

It is supposed there were five hundred Confederates, but about one hundred entered the town. They came in on the Vienna road.

FAIRFAX COURT-HOUSE, March 9.—Capt. Mosely, with his command, entered this town this morning at two o'clock. They captured my patrols, horses, &c. He took Gen. B. C. Stoughton and horses and all his men detached from his brigade. They took every horse that could be found, public and private. The commanding officer of the post, Col. Johnston, of the 5th New York cavalry, made his escape in a nude state, by accident. They searched for me in every direction, but, being on the Vienna road, visiting, I made my escape. All our available cavalry force are in pursuit of them.

Lieut. T. Z. OSCANNER, Prov. Marshal.

The Judges who are to form the Court of the District of Columbia have not yet been nominated. The better opinion is that the following will be selected: David K. Carter, of Ohio, late Minister to Bolivia; Andrew Wylie, of Virginia, nominated at the last session in Judge Crawford's place; George G. Fisher, of Delaware, and Abraham Olin of New York, late members of Congress.

A journal in Georgia, called the Southern Union, has proposed to reconstruct the old Union of the States. The Atlanta Confederacy pitches into it and in the course of its article asserts that "there are fewer Abolitionists in Massachusetts than Reconstructionists in Georgia."

The Supreme Court of New York has decided that marriage under an assumed name is legal and valid, and that the offspring of such marriage is legitimate and heir at law to the estate of the father who assumed the name.

A Californian has lately invented a gunboat. In this, the turret is dispensed with, and, in place of it, a massive iron revolving platform, upon which is placed the gun, is caused to arise from below by immense screws, turned by steam power; after firing it is again depressed, the aperture in the deck being immediately closed by a false iron platform, which slides into its place flush with the deck.

The rumor is renewed that the President will soon call out a large force, so as to keep up the U. S. army to the standard of a million of men.

The U. S. Court at Cincinnati has decided that a citizen, not a recognized broker, but who nevertheless loans money, and buys notes and mortgages, is not a regular broker, and therefore not subject to be taxed, as claimed by Commissioner Boutwell.

In New York, March 8th, the extensive carpet manufactory of E. S. Higgins & Co., was discovered to be on fire. The buildings extend from Forty-third to Forty-fourth street, with a front of several hundred feet on Forty-third street, and reaching almost to the North river. Higgins & Co., are damaged on stock and building to over \$30,000. They are insured for about \$250,000 in city companies. The entire establishment is valued at over a half a million of dollars. The fire is believed to have been caused by design.

The rage for speculating in mining stocks in California is increasing. It is estimated that from \$25,000 to \$50,000 change hands daily, buying and selling shares at the San Francisco Stock Exchange alone. Nothing like it was ever known there before.

The New York Herald tells Secretary Chase that if he will use aright the power given him by returning to specie payment himself, and compelling the banks to do the same thing, then he will have made himself master of the situation. Otherwise the situation will have made itself master of him.

The Washington Chronicle says, "we learn on reliable authority, that twenty-five per cent. of all the soldiers who are discharged from the convalescent camp at Alexandria, as incurable, are said, upon medical authority, to be affected with heart disease. It is a curious fact and should be investigated."

The special correspondent of the London Times writes from Charleston, S. C., as follows: "On the night of my arrival here a large ball was given by the members of Gen. Beauregard's staff, and it would have been difficult for a stranger suddenly introduced into the ball-room to credit the assertion that the country which could exhibit its daughters in such gay and brilliant dresses had been for nearly two years shut out by blockade from Paris and Europe. It is scarcely extravagant statement to assert that, even in their present so-called destitute condition, such States as South Carolina and Georgia possess all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life to an extent unsurpassed in the richest countries of the old world."

The surgeons in charge of the camps of sick soldiers near Alexandria, say that about one-half of the men who are returned from the hospitals as fit for duty, upon examination prove to be totally. The number of men who have passed through this camp since its establishment is about twenty-five thousand.

A parliamentary return, just issued, shows the number of military men flogged in Great Britain and Ireland in 1861. In the army 168 soldiers were flogged, 8,204 lashes being in all inflicted. The sentence in almost every case was 50 lashes.